

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0375

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, CI

SUBJ: CHILE AND GSP

REF: SANTIAGO 0314

1. AT AMBASSADOR'S DINNER FOR AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD JANUARY 17, ENRIQUE BERNSTEIN, FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL ADVISER, ELABORATED ON FOREIGN MINISTER'S REQUEST TO AMBASSADOR EARLIER IN DAY (REFTEL) FOR USG RESPONSE TO FORTHCOMING CHILEAN NOTE REQUESTING EXTENSION OF GSP TO CHILE AND PROVIDING ASSURANCES REQUIRED UNDER TRA.

2. BERNSTEIN EXPLAINED THAT GOC RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM OTHER LAS WHO ARGUE THAT U.S. DENIAL OF GSP TO VENEZUELA AND OTHER OPEC MEMBERS FOR ACTIONS RE PETROLEUM CAN EQUALLY WELL BE EXTENDED TOMORROW TO OTHER LA PRIMARY PRODUCT PRODUCERS FOR ACTIONS RE COFFEE, SUGAR, BANANAS, COPPER, ETC. BERNSTEIN SAID THIS IS A DIFFICULT ARGUMENT FOR GOC TO COUNTER, GIVEN GOC MEMBERSHIP IN CIPEC.

3. GOC NOTION IS THAT SOME KIND OF ASSURANCE RE EXTENSION OF GSP TO CHILE IN RESPONSE TO GOC NOTE WOULD PERMIT GOC TO KNOCK DOWN THIS ARGUMENT VERY HANDILY WHICH SHOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO USG.

4. BERNSTEIN SAID THAT WHILE GOC WOULD LIKE ASSURANCE IN WRITING, AN ORAL REASSURANCE COULD ALSO BE USED TO SAME
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EFFECT.

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT SUPPOSE GOC IS ENTIRELY ALTRUISTIC WITH REGARD TO THIS REQUEST. GOC PROBABLY FEELS SOME UNEASINESS ABOUT CIPEC MEMBERSHIP IN LIGHT OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON TRA AND WOULD WELCOME REASSURANCE.

6. AT SAME TIME, REASSURANCE TO CHILE COULD HAVE MULTIPLIER EFFECT BERNSTEIN AND FOREIGN MINISTER SEEM TO HAVE IN MIND, AND WE RECOMMEND IT BE GIVEN.

7. IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO GIVE CHILE A RESPONSE OF THE KIND THEY ARE SEEKING, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN DAMPING CURRENT EXAGGERATED LA REACTION TO GSP LIMITATION TO GIVE SIMILAR RESPONSES TO OTHER LAS AS WELL.
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